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## DOYLE ANNOUNCES GREEN SPACE PROJECTS

County to preserve and protect 1000 acres

Monroe County Executive **Jack Doyle** today announced a list of 12 open space projects he will recommend for County Green Space Initiative funding. The County will provide \$1.5 million in matching grants to towns and land trusts for the projects, which will be used to protect environmentally sensitive and agricultural properties in 9 Monroe County towns.

"I am extremely impressed with the quality and diversity of these projects," said County Executive Jack Doyle. "With these grants, we will help towns and land trusts protect 1000 acres across Monroe County. This includes vital habitats, wetlands and woodlands, as well as high-quality agricultural land that is under development pressure."

Doyle launched the Greenspace Initiative in September 2001, using \$2 million set aside for open space preservation under the County's Tobacco Securitization plan. The program provides matching grants to towns and land trusts for open space preservation.

County Executive Doyle also announced that Monroe County will hold a second round of funding. "We had a terrific response to our first round of funding," noted Doyle. "Monroe County towns have been at the forefront of efforts to protect open space and agricultural lands. I expect that there will be considerable interest in the second round of funding."

About \$500,000 in funding remains for the program and any unspent funds from the first round will carry over to the second round.

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**NOTE:** A map and a description of the Green Space projects will follow this release.

For further information, call: Communications and Special Events, 428-2380 See us on the Web at www.monroecounty.gov